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Language Tapes Available  
For Testing Basic Aural Comprehension

At the request of an <sup>Operating</sup> ~~Area~~ Division, the Assessment and Evaluation Staff of <sup>the Office of Training</sup> ~~OTR~~ has recently developed a test to determine an individual's ability to comprehend simple verbal instructions in a given language. Results have indicated that the test will be a useful device for the selection of individuals whose language comprehension is sufficiently good to permit them to receive training ~~instruction~~. This test does not measure reading or writing skills, but is designed for use in specific situations involving ability to comprehend spoken languages. It has no relationship to the ~~Agency's~~ <sup>Department's</sup> language aptitude and proficiency tests which are administered at headquarters for staff employees, and it should not be confused with them.

The test is given by means of a tape recording. It takes about ~~thirty~~ minutes to complete and score, and does not require the administrator to know the language in question. The test consists of a booklet containing 75 sets of pictures, four pictures to a set. The subject must identify the picture in each set referred to by the voice speaking on the tape. The same test booklets are used for a variety of languages as the pictures are of activities generally applicable to many cultural areas.

Tests are now available in English, German, Russian, Latvian, Estonian, and Ukrainian. A&E can make tapes available in a variety of languages. Requests for these tests should state the language needed and the tape speed wanted. The only requirements on the user are that, where possible, the individual who is to administer the tests be briefed by a member of the A&E Staff, and that the results of the tests be sent to A&E so that research in this field can continue.

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